Import of Coal

3525. SHRI : GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any import of coal, recently;

(b) if so, what are the quantity of coal imported in the year 1996 and 1997; and

(c) who are the consumers of this imported coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of imports of coking and non-coking coal during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as under:

Year	Quantity
1995-96	12.51 million tonnes
1996-97 (Prov.)	14.41 million tonnes

(c) Steel, power, cement, chemical industries and others are the main consumers of the imported coal in the country

Plant package order by NLC

3526. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Neyveli Lignite Corporation had placed the main plant package order for the 2 × 210 MW Neyveli Thermal Power Station, on the Italian M N C Ansaldo and not the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact the BHEL chairman met the Chairman of Neyveli Lignite Corporation and informed him about the special feature and advantages of BHEL's proposal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The special technical features of the offer as perceived by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) as well as BHEL's knowledge of operating conditions prevailing at Neyveli were explained by BHEL offcials to the officials of Neyveli Lignite Corporation.

Coal Reserves in the Country

3527. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) for how long period the coal reserves of the country are expected to last with large scale of mining of coal in the country;

(b) whether Government have consider to exploit more and more other sources of energy like hydro-power and preserve coal for longer period in future; and

(c) what measures have been taken in this regard or are proposed to be taken in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Keeping in view the present and projected future off take of coal by various sectors, the indigenous coal reserves are likely to last over 100 years.

(b) and (c) The potential alternate soruces of energy in the country are hydel, nuclear and non-conventional energy like solar and wind energy etc. Thrusts have been given to exploit these energy sources to their optimum levels.

कोयला खानों में आधारभूत सुविधाओं का अभाव

3528. श्री जनार्दन यादव: क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में कोयले का उत्पादन इसकी मांग से कम है क्योंकि खानों में आधारभूत सुविधाओं की कमी है और

(ख) कोयले का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के मद्देनजर सरकार के पास आधारभूत सुविधाओं को उपलब्ध करवाने की कौन-कौन सी योजनाएं हैं?